

PRIZE
GROUP

SEPT. OCT. 1953 No.26 10¢

BLACK MAGIC

TRUE AMAZING
ACCOUNTS OF THE
STRANGEST STORIES
EVER TOLD!

magazine

THIS TERRIBLE
WIND -- IT
CAME WHEN THE
WITCH DOCTOR OF
THESE ISLANDERS
CALLED TO IT!

IT'S **THE DEMON
WIND!** WE
LAUGHED AT IT--
AND NOW IT'LL
TEAR US ALL
TO PIECES --

It ruled the
Island but it
was not a man--
this terrible
thing that lived
in the air!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

**DOCTORS
IN ACTUAL CLINICAL
TESTS* PROVE
SUCCESS OF**

AMAZING DOUBLE-ACTION SKIN TREATMENT THAT **CONCEALS AS IT MEDICATES** **PIMPLES** ACNE, BLACKHEADS AND other externally-caused **SKIN BLEMISHES!**

Actual clinical tests conducted by leading doctors have proven that an amazing, new-type medication helps clear up skin blemishes while it covers and hides embarrassing pimples! In the many cases tested by the doctors, there were a mixture of men, women and children, White and Negro. Some with recent skin eruptions and others with skin troubles of many years. The results were:

100% SUCCESSFUL
IN CLINICAL TESTS

*45% were COMPLETELY CLEARED!
38% were DECIDEDLY IMPROVED!
17% were IMPROVED!

NOW THE SAME TYPE OF MEDICATION
USED IN THESE CLINICAL TESTS
IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!

**GUARANTEED
TO HELP YOUR
SKIN LOOK
LOVELIER AND
MORE ATTRACTIVE
IN A FEW
-MINUTES
OR DOUBLE
YOUR MONEY BACK!**

**Leading
SKIN
SPECIALISTS
RECOMMEND THIS
DOUBLE TREATMENT**

Physicians prescribe two ways to help control skin eruptions: First—clean the skin and clear the pores of clogging dirt. Second—inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin.

The clinically-proven ingredients in the scientifically-tested formula of Scope Products have been compounded to help overcome these external causes of pimples and blemishes! Actually starves pimples because it helps remove the oils that skin specialists often associate with acne!

**SKIN DOCTORS STATE THAT
TO NEGLECT YOUR SKIN MAY
PROLONG YOUR COMPLEXION
TROUBLE AND MAKE IT
MORE DIFFICULT TO CLEAR UP!**

**DELAY MAY BE HARMFUL—
Send for Scope Medicated Skin treatment
with its special "cover-up" action!
MAIL COUPON AT ONCE!**

TEEN-AGERS and GROWN-UPS REGAIN NEW POPULARITY

People of all ages have discovered a new-found joy with a clearer lovelier looking skin! If you've been hoping to improve your complexion . . . to increase your popularity with the opposite sex

. . . to climb to success in the business world—we recommend this amazing treatment. Just a few minutes each day can yield more gratifying results than you ever dreamed possible!

HIDES PIMPLES ON LIGHT, AVERAGE & DARK COMPLEXIONS!

To help people of all complexions quickly conceal their externally caused blemishes—Scope Medicated Skin Formulas come in special tones. No matter how many other treatments or old-fashioned preparations have disappointed you—here is a

product that guarantees to improve your appearance or double your money back! Scope Medicated Skin Formula is GREASELESS, FAST-DRYING and STAINLESS! Make-up can easily be applied over it.

SURE, QUICK RESULTS — WORKS LIKE MAGIC!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin in just 10 days, return the unused portion and we will promptly send you double the purchase price! You have nothing to lose but worrying over your bad complexion. **WE TAKE ALL THE RISK!**

SEND NO MONEY

You fill out the coupon and by return mail we will immediately ship you the Scope Treatment in a plain package. Try Scope Treatment! If you are not entirely satisfied, return the unused portion for refund of double your purchase price.

Mail FREE TRIAL Coupon TODAY!

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. YR7 ACT
1 Orchard St., New York 2, N. Y. NOW!

☐ Please send me on a 10-Day Trial the Scope Medicated Skin Treatment. I will pay postman \$1.98 plus postage on delivery. If not entirely satisfied, I may return the unused portion for double my purchase price back.

Check ☐ Light ☐ Medium ☐ Dark Complexion

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zone _____ State _____

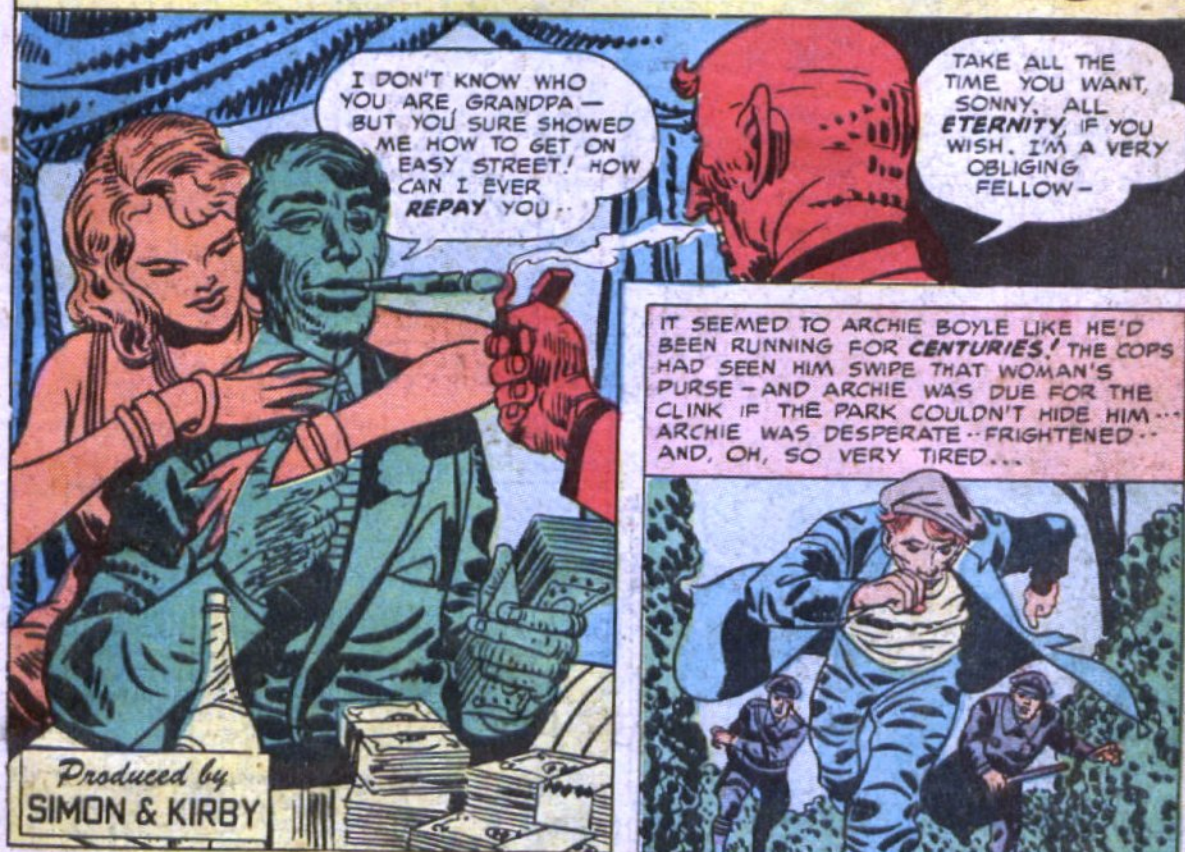
☐ SAVE MONEY. Enclose \$2. now and we pay postage. Same double your money-back either way you order.

Enclose payment with Canadian or Foreign orders.

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. YR7 1 Orchard St., New York 2, N. Y.

Even a fool has the right to seek Paradise. But will he like it when he finds it? You see--it will still be a--

Fool's Paradise!



Vol. 4 No. 2

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September-October 1953

ARCHIE WASN'T EXACTLY THE COURAGEOUS TYPE. HE WAITED FULLY TEN MINUTES AFTER THE POLICE HAD GONE BEFORE HE STEPPED OUT OF THE PROTECTION OF HIS LEAFY SANCTUARY!

WELL, THEY'RE GONE! IT'S GOOD YOU FROZE, POP! IF YOU'D YELPED I'D HAVE USED THIS KNIFE!

OH, I NEVER DOUBTED THAT YOU WOULD! I KNOW YOU WELL, ARCHIE... ALMOST INTIMATELY, I MIGHT SAY!

WELL, I DON'T KNOW YOU! SO, HOW COME YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHAT IS THIS? HAVE YOU BEEN TRAILING ME?

WE MUST HURRY BEFORE THOSE POLICEMEN RETURN! NO ONE WILL NOTICE A YOUNG MAN TAKING HIS OLD MAN FOR AN EVENING STROLL! WE'LL GO TO MY HOME! YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE FOR THE PRESENT!

THAT'S IT! FOR A CHANGE, YOU'RE DOING THE **WISE** THING! YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU CAME ALONG... AND, INTERESTED IN WHAT I INTEND TO PROPOSE!

I DON'T GET THE DRIFT, GRAMPS... BUT A HIDEOUT'S A HIDEOUT! WHERE IS YOUR PLACE?

IT WAS A **SWELL** PLACE... IN A SWELL NEIGHBORHOOD! ARCHIE BOYLE LIKED IT! HE WOULD SPARE A LOT OF TIME IN SURROUNDINGS LIKE THESE... HE'D EVEN LISTEN TO WHAT THE STRANGE, LITTLE GAFFER HAD TO SAY...

WOW! WHAT A LAYOUT! YOU MUST BE IN A **GREAT** RACKET, GRAMPS!

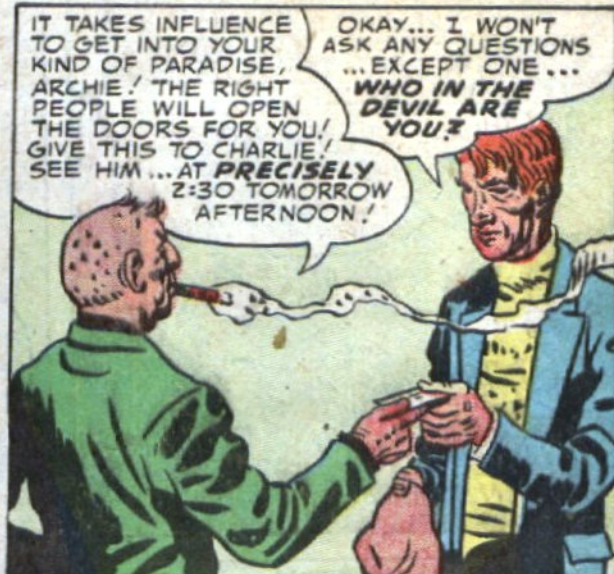
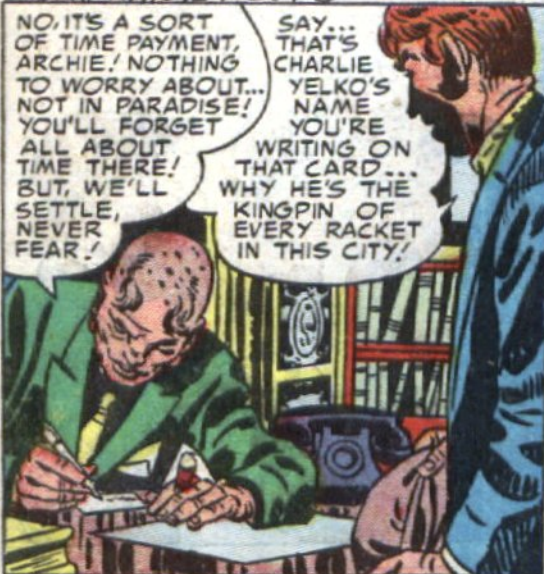
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, ARCHIE! I SELL **TICKETS TO EASY-STREET!**

OH... A NARCOTICS OPERATOR, EH? WHY, GRAMPA! SHAME ON YOU...

I DABBLE IN PEOPLE, ARCHIE! PEOPLE LIKE YOU... **FAILURES** IN THOUGHT AND DEED! YOU'RE A SMALL TIME PICK-POCKET... BUT YOU DREAM BIG, ARCHIE! I KNOW! YOU WANT TO BE A **BIG SHOT**... TO SMOKE DOLLAR CIGARS... LIKE THESE!

MONEY, WOMEN, POWER... THAT'S **YOUR** VISION OF PARADISE, ISN'T IT? I KNOW WHERE **EASY STREET** IS, ARCHIE! **WANT TO GO THERE?**

SURE! I'LL BUY A TICKET... HOW DO I PAY FOR IT... IN **BLOOD?**



IT WAS OVER AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD STARTED! NO CAR...NO BULLETS...AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, NO INJURIES FOR THOSE INVOLVED... THANKS TO ARCHIE'S **TIMELY** ACTION...



WOW! THAT WAS A NARROW SQUEAK! YOU OKAY, MISTER YELKO?

LUCKY, YOU WERE ON HAND, FELLA! THESE BODYGUARDS OF MINE ARE LOSING THEIR EYESIGHT!

THE LUNK HEADS! THAT WAS **FAST** THINKING, MY FRIEND! CHARLIE YELKO OWES HIS LIFE TO YOU...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU, MR. YELKO! THIS CARD WILL EXPLAIN!



ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU IN RETURN?

HMM... THE HANDWRITING... COULD BE "PISTOL" DEANS... OR FINN GALESKI'S... OR... WELL... NO MATTER... YOU'RE RECOMMENDED FOR A JOB, ARCHIE! AND YOU'VE GOT ONE!

THANKS, MISTER YELKO! I FEEL I CAN GO PLACES... WORKING FOR YOU!



AND ARCHIE **DID!** IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED HE DID WELL IN CHARLIE YELKO'S ORGANIZATION! FROM A CHEAP HOODLUM HE ROSE RAPIDLY TO MORE IMPORTANT UNDERWORLD TASKS! SUCCESS HAD COME INTO ARCHIE'S LIFE! HE WAS IMPORTANT... HE WAS IN PARADISE!



I TOLD YOU MONKEYS HOW TO COLLECT THAT DOUGH! NOW **DON'T** COME BACK WITHOUT IT! IT WON'T LOOK GOOD IN MY REPORT TO CHARLIE YELKO!

THAT'S IT! WHIP 'EM INTO LINE, ARCHIE!

ARCHIE'S CROWNING JOY ARRIVED ONE DAY ON THE ARM OF CHARLIE YELKO! HER NAME WAS **PEARL**... AND THE FACT THAT SHE BELONGED TO YELKO DIDN'T QUELL ARCHIE'S DESIRE FOR HER...OR PEARL'S SILENT RESPONSE!

IT'S A MUST, CHARLIE! I LIKE TO GET **RESULTS** FOR YOU..

YOU SURE DO, ARCHIE! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIM, PEARL? ARCHIE'S MY **BEST** MAN! YOU CAN'T HELP LIKING HIM!

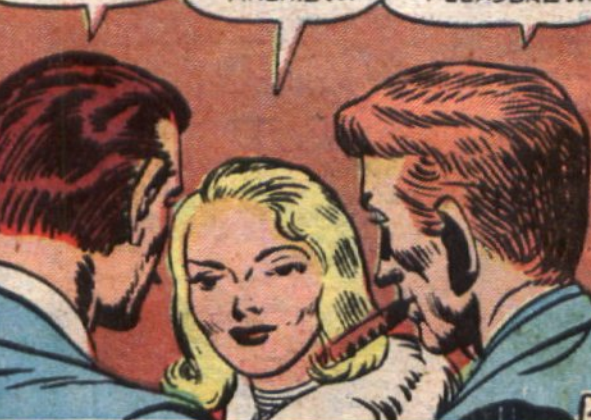
YEAH... I CAN SEE THAT!



WELL, LET'S GO HONEY! WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE SHOW...

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU **AGAIN**, ARCHIE...

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE, PEARL... A **REAL** PLEASURE...



ARCHIE AND PEARL SAW EACH OTHER FRE-
QUENTLY AFTER THAT. ONLY CHARLIE YELKO
NEVER KNEW ABOUT IT. BUT, THE PROSPECT
OF HIS FINDING OUT DIDN'T DISTURB ARCHIE.
HE WAS MAKING PLANS TO RID HIS
PARADISE OF THAT THREATENING ELEMENT.

THIS IS THE
LIFE, BABY!
THIS IS ARCHIE
BOYLE'S
IDEA OF
LIVING--

CHARLIE YELKO *WON'T*
LIKE YOUR IDEA,
ARCHIE. HE'S
GOING TO FIND
OUT SOONER
OR LATER--



I'M **SCARED**, ARCHIE.
SOMEONE'S GOING TO
GET WIND OF OUR--
FRIENDSHIP--ONE
OF CHARLIE'S
BOYS--THEY'RE
EVERYWHERE!
MAYBE--WE
OUGHT TO
STOP--
SEEING
EACH
OTHER--

FORGET IT. AFTER TONIGHT,
CHARLIE'S BOYS WILL BE
MY BOYS. I'M
TAKING OVER THE
RACKETS--AND YOU!
CHARLIE YELKO'S
ABDICATING--THE
HARD WAY. I'VE
GOT IT ALL
FIGURED OUT.



CONVINCED?

YEAH--
CONVINCED!

ARCHIE'S PARADISE WAS FILLED WITH SNAKES.
AND CHARLIE YELKO WAS THE CLEVEREST AND
THE QUICKEST AND THE DEADLIEST. HE'D SEEN...
THEN ACTED! THAT NIGHT, WHEN ARCHIE CALLED
ON PEARL-- HE FOUND HER-- **DEAD**...



PEARL-- MURDERED!
YELKO **KNEW** ABOUT
US!



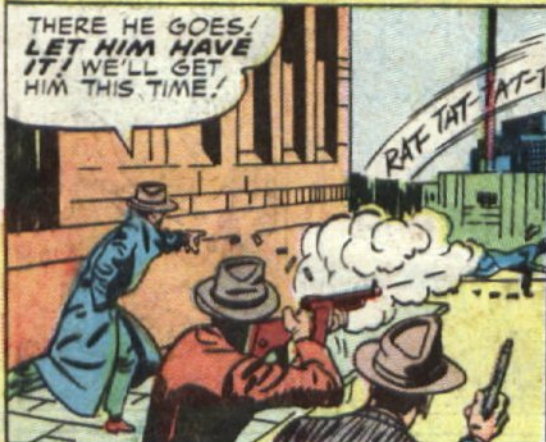
THAT MEANS I'M
NEXT! THOSE TWO
MEN STANDING ON
THE CORNER DOWN
THERE-- CHARLIE'S
HIRED KILLERS!

THEY'RE WAITING
FOR ME--I GOTTA
DODGE 'EM! GOTTA
HIDE--GOTTA RUN!



SO ARCHIE RAN AND HE RAN... HEADING OUT OF PARADISE... WITH CHARLIE YELKO'S ROD-HAPPY KILLERS CLOSE ON HIS HEELS! THE CITY WAS LARGE... BUT, YELKO'S SHADOW WAS EVERYWHERE... SEEPING INTO EVERY CRACK THAT ARCHIE SOUGHT FOR REFUGE!

THERE HE GOES!
LET HIM HAVE
IT! WE'LL GET
HIM THIS TIME!



AN ANIMAL CLINGS TO LIFE... EVEN A HUNTED ANIMAL LIKE ARCHIE! TIME AND AGAIN HE ELUDED DEATH BY THE TIGHTEST OF SQUEAKS! ARCHIE'S GRANDEUR HAD VANISHED, AND HIS CLOTHES WERE WORN AND DIRTY! HE HAD NO MONEY... AND HE RETURNED TO HIS OLD WAYS OF GETTING IT!



STOP THIEF!
HE SNATCHED
MY PURSE!

HEY, YOU!
HALT, OR
I'LL SHOOT!



THERE WAS THE PARK... AND ARCHIE WHEELED SHARPLY TOWARD A SHADED PATH WHICH LED TO POSSIBLE AVENUES OF CONCEALMENT! SOMEHOW, IT SEEMED TO ARCHIE **THAT ALL THIS HAD HAPPENED THIS WAY, BEFORE!** HE SEEMED TO KNOW THIS PATH... AND THE LITTLE MAN SITTING CALM ON A PARK BENCH AT THE END OF IT!



BUT, HIS PANIC-STRICKEN MIND HAD ONLY ONE THOUGHT... RUN-RUN-HIDE-HIDE! HE FELT TIRED... LIKE HE'D BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME... LIKE HE'D BE RUNNING LIKE THIS **FOREVER!** WHEN WOULD IT END? WHEN WOULD HE FIND PEACE?

I'LL HAVE TO
TAKE MY CHANCES
IN THESE SHRUBS!



THE DEVIL SMILED AS HE FELT ARCHIE'S KNIFE AGAINST THE BACK OF HIS NECK! **SOON IT WOULD BEGIN AGAIN!** THE ETERNAL RAT RACE TO PARADISE! ARCHIE'S KIND ALWAYS CAME HERE SEEKING PARADISE... AND SATAN **NEVER** FAILED TO OBLIGE! HE GRANTED IT TO THEM... OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN!



THE END

THE FACTS! ON AUGUST 21, 1923, ARCHIE BOYLE, A LITTLE KNOWN CRIMINAL, WAS SHOT AND KILLED WHILE EVADING ARREST ON A PICKPOCKET CHARGE!

**MEDICAL
DOCTOR says:**



**It's FUN
to REDUCE
with KELPIDINE
CHEWING GUM!**

**NO DRUGS
NO STARVING
NO MASSAGE
NO EXERCISE
NO STEAMING
NO LAXATIVES**

FREE!

A full 12 day
package will
be given FREE
With a 24 day
supply for \$2. That's actually a
36 day supply for only \$2.

**KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM
GOOD FOR MEN TOO**

**"FAT MEN & WOMEN
who are normally overweight, will be amazed to
discover this safe, pleasant, scientific way to lose ugly
fat and get a slimmer, more attractive figure."**

CHEW IMPROVED FORMULA KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCE

**UP TO 5 lbs. A WEEK
With Dr. PHILLIPS REDUCING PLAN**

It's really FUN to REDUCE with KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM! This amazing, pleasant-tasting chewing gum way to reduce helps you lose ugly fat and take off weight without hardships. It's the scientific, safe way to lose up to 5 lbs. a week. Best of all, with Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN, you eat 3 tasty, well-balanced meals every day, and only when you are tempted to take a fattening snack, you chew KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM instead, which contains only 3 calories in each delicious piece. KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM is wonderful because it pleases your sweet-tooth, yet helps to keep you on Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan, which helps you lose ugly fat and reduce weight.

LOSE 10 - 20 - 30 LBS.

Men and women everywhere are losing as much weight as they wish since they discovered this amazing, scientific way to reduce. You can take off 10-20-30 lbs. and still eat 3 tasty, well-balanced meals every day. It's really FUN to REDUCE with the Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN. Why even think of any other way to reduce when you can lose pounds and inches and have fun doing it. Don't just wish for a slimmer more attractive figure! You can easily reduce to a beautiful, slim, glamorous figure, which will give you poise, win new friends, romance and popularity. Don't deny yourself what you've been wishing for... send for your 25 day supply of Improved Formula KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan this very minute. 100% guaranteed!

You must lose weight... up to 5 lbs. a week... or YOU DON'T PAY ONE PENNY. Your friends... your mirror... and your scale must tell you that you have lost ugly fat and excess weight, or your money back. What can you lose but unwanted pounds and inches, so send the coupon right away.

**12 Day
Supply
Only**

\$1

Money-Back Guarantee! 10 Day Free Trial!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have lost weight and look slimmer you pay nothing.

SENT ON APPROVAL — MAIL COUPON NOW!

**AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS COMPANY Dept. CH-855
318 Market Street, Newark, N.J.**

Just mail us your name and address, and \$1. cash, check or money-order. You will receive a 12 day supply of KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM (Improved Formula), and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan postage prepaid.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

☐ Send me Special 24 day supply and FREE 12 day package for \$2.00. I understand that if I am not delighted with KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan, I can return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

LOSE WEIGHT OR NO CHARGE

MAIL THIS 10 DAY FREE TRIAL COUPON NOW!

That small, persistent Voice that whispers to you in the night, conjuring up pictures of evil, forbidden delights..Don't you know who owns that voice? it's..

The BEAST IN YOU!

EDWARD GRANGER STOOD IN THE PRECINCT STATION WITH HIS MILD EYES STARING AT SOME HORROR THAT ONLY HE COULD SEE...AND THE DESK SERGEANT LAUGHED!

NOW, LOOK, MR. GRANGER... YOU SEEM TO BE A NICE, HARMLESS SORT, BUT, YOU'RE A **NUT!** YOU NEVER KILLED ANY-ONE, DO ME A FAVOR, GO HOME!

NO! SERGEANT, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME, I'M A MURDERER! I KILLED THAT GIRL, THE ONE THEY FOUND LAST NIGHT IN THE PARK!



HOW? THAT GIRL'S THROAT WAS CRUSHED! WHOEVER KILLED HER WAS AS STRONG AS AN OX! YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU COULD CRUSH A WALNUT!

BUT I'VE EXPLAINED THAT, IT WAS THE OTHER ME! **THE BEAST!** SERGEANT, EACH OF US IS TWO PEOPLE... GOOD AND BAD! MOST OF THE TIME, THE GOOD IN US HOLDS THE BAD IN CHECK!



I'VE TRIED, BUT THE BEAST IN ME IS TOO POWERFUL! I'VE FOUGHT IT, BUT LAST NIGHT...IT WON! IT GOT FREE! IT KILLED!

SURE! HALF OF YOU WENT OUT AND COMMITTED A MURDER AND THE OTHER HALF STAYED HOME AND WAITED FOR THE BIG BAD WOLF TO COME BACK!

NO! WHEN THE BEAST TAKES OVER, IT USES MY BODY! I WAS THERE, IMPRISONED IN MY OWN BRAIN!

I HAD TO LOOK ON WHILE IT KILLED! SERGEANT, IN THE NAME OF MERCY, LISTEN TO ME!

I HAVE! AND YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER CRANK, THE SOONER I GET RID OF YOU THE LESS I'LL HAVE TO PUT INTO MY REPORT ABOUT YOU, SAM, TOSS THIS NUT OUT!



EDWARD GRANGER SHRIEKED HIS PROTEST AS A GRINNING OFFICER ESCORTED HIM TO THE DOOR! THIS MAN A KILLER? IT WAS RIDICULOUS! SO NO ONE CAN BLAME THE POLICE SERGEANT FOR WHAT HAPPENED LATER THAT NIGHT...





IT WAS AFTER THAT TWIN CRIME THAT THE POLICE GUARD WAS PLACED ABOUT THE PARK. THAT HARD-EYED MEN HUNTED A MONSTER IN HUMAN FORM! BUT WHAT THEY FOUND, WAS NOT A MONSTER!

YOU, THERE! COME OUT! AND DON'T TRY ANYTHING!

DON'T SHOOT! PLEASE! I... I HAVE TO TALK TO YOUR CHIEF!



WHAT HAVE YOU GOT, OFFICER?

HE SAYS HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU, INSPECTOR! HE WAS HIDING IN THE BUSHES, BUT WHOEVER HE IS, THIS LITTLE GUY CAN'T BE OUR KILLER!

BUT I AM! INSPECTOR, I'M EDWARD GRANGER. I READ ABOUT THE GUARD IN THE PARK, THAT'S WHY I CAME! SOMEONE'S GOT TO BELIEVE ME...

OH, YES... YOU'RE ONE OF THE CRANKS WHO'VE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE CREDIT FOR THESE KILLINGS! YOU RAVED ABOUT BEING TWO PEOPLE!

IT WASN'T RAVING, INSPECTOR, I'M YOUR MAN. THE BEAST WANTED TO COME HERE TONIGHT! IT LIKES THE PARK! T-THE DARK-

HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR CRACKPOTS! GET OUT OF THE PARK, GRANGER! THIS KILLER WE ARE AFTER ISN'T PARTICULAR! HE JUST MIGHT PICK YOU AS HIS NEXT VICTIM!



EDWARD GRANGER WAS A MAN IN TORMENT! THERE WAS NO DOUBT OF THAT! BUT HE COULD NOT BE THE BEAST! HE TURNED AWAY, HE VANISHED AMID THE TREES... AND FOR AWHILE ALL WAS SILENT! FOR... AWHILE!

YA-AA-AA-

INSPECTOR!

COME ON!

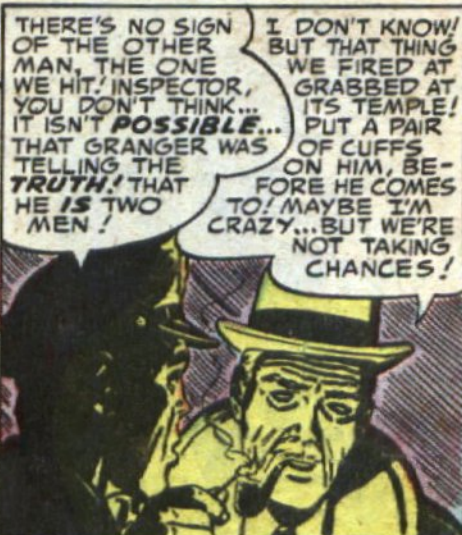


THERE! GET HIM!

WE HIT HIM! HE'S FALLING!



SOME OF THE STORY OF EDWARD GRANGER WILL REMAIN FOREVER A MYSTERY! BUT THIS IS CERTAIN! TWO SANE MEN KNOW THAT THEY FIRED AT A HUGE HULKING SHAPE! THAT IT FELL! AND THAT WHEN THEY REACHED THE SPOT...



ON THE FACE OF IT, IT WAS IM-POSSIBLE! BUT THE KILLER HAD VANISHED! ONLY EDWARD GRANGER REMAINED! AND THERE ARE MEN WHO UNDERSTAND SUCH THINGS!

WELL, DOCTOR? YOU TALKED TO HIM! AM I AS BIG A FOOL AS I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I AM? OR IS GRANGER OUR BOY?

FRANKLY, I... I'D RATHER NOT SAY, INSPECTOR!



WE KNOW THAT SPLIT PERSONALITY CASES EXIST! WE KNOW THAT THE EVIL IN ANY MAN CAN TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE MIND! BUT IT CAN'T CHANGE THE BODY! YOU SAID YOU SAW A HULK...

WE DID! AND IT WASN'T GRANGER! WE HIT IT! BUT WHEN WE GOT TO THE SPOT WHERE IT FELL... IT WAS GRANGER!



DOCTOR, I KNOW IT'S FANTASTIC! BUT, GRANGER AND THAT OTHER... THEY'RE ONE AND THE SAME! THEY MUST BE!

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, INSPECTOR, I'D LIKE TO CALL IN SOME COLLEAGUES JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT WE AREN'T BOTH LOSING OUR MINDS!



THERE WERE THREE OF THEM! MEN WHOSE NAMES ARE BYWORDS IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHONEUROTIC RESEARCH! THEY PROBED... AND THEY LEARNED NOTHING!

I'M POSITIVE! GENTLEMEN, THE MAN IS A SCHIZOPHRENIC, BEYOND DOUBT! BUT THIS TALK OF BEASTS... IT IS PART OF THE NEUROSIS! A FANTASY!



ALMOST CERTAINLY! AND YET WHEN WE QUESTIONED HIM, IT WAS ALMOST AS IF ANOTHER ENTITY WERE STARING OUT AT US FROM BEHIND HIS EYES!

YES! YES, THAT'S IT! THE BEAST KNOWS! HE WAS LAUGHING AT YOU! HE KNOWS HE'S SAFE! BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU DON'T BELIEVE HE EXISTS! BUT HE DOES! HE'LL KILL AGAIN! UNLESS WE STOP HIM!



AND YOU KNOW A WAY TO STOP THE BEAST, MISTER GRANGER? HOW?

BY MAKING HIM HELPLESS! IF I WERE TO BE LOCKED AWAY... EVEN IF HE WERE TO EMERGE AGAIN HE'D BE HARMLESS. HE COULDN'T KILL! YOU'VE GOT TO LOCK ME UP!



YOU MEAN IN A CELL, GRANGER, I'VE STUCK MY NECK OUT A MILE ON THIS CASE ALREADY! THE PLACE FOR YOU IS A HOSPITAL, NOT A CELL!

NO! DOCTOR... THE BEAST.. HE'S FIGHTING ME EVEN NOW! HE KNOWS I'M RIGHT! MAKE HIM LISTEN! I... I DON'T WANT TO KILL! BUT I CAN'T FIGHT HIM ALONE! I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH!



MR. GRANGER! COMPOSE YOURSELF! THERE IS NO BEAST EXCEPT IN YOUR OWN MIND! WE'LL TALK AGAIN LATER, AFTER YOU'VE RESTED!

NO! NOW! YOU HAVE HEARTS... NOW! I BEG YOU! LOCK ME UP! IF YOU DON'T... THE BLOOD HE SPILLS WILL BE ON YOUR HANDS!

THESE WERE MEN OF SCIENCE! THEY DID NOT BELIEVE! BUT WHAT WAS THE HARM IN HUMORING THIS WRETCHED SOUL?

VERY WELL, THEN! INSPECTOR, YOU HAVE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELLS HERE? WE SHALL NEED ONE! AND A STRAIT-JACKET AS WELL...

EDWARD GRANGER'S EYES GLOWED AS HE WAS LED INTO A CELL. AS HE SPOKE, IT WAS ALMOST AS IF SOMEONE, SOME THING WERE TRYING TO STRANGLE THE WORDS IN HIS THROAT!

REMEMBER! WHATEVER YOU HEAR... DON'T OPEN THE DOOR! GO... QUICKLY!



SHAKEN DESPITE THEMSELVES, THE MEN CLUSTERED OUTSIDE THE STEEL DOOR. FOR AN HOUR, TWO, THE SILENCE WAS ALMOST PHYSICAL! THEN...

LISTEN! THAT VOICE! SOMEONE IS SPEAKING IN GRANGER'S CELL! BUT... IT ISN'T GRANGER!

FOOL! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD BEAT ME! WHAT GOOD WILL ALL THIS DO? THIS THING THEY PUT ON US! DID YOU REALLY THINK IT COULD HOLD ME?



NO! DON'T! THE PAIN! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING? T-TWO VOICES... AND SOME-THING TEARING!



CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I DON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE! I DON'T NEED YOUR PUNY CARCASS! **I'M FREE! FREE AT LAST!** YOU TOLD THEM I WANTED TO KILL! YOU WHERE RIGHT!

YOU... YOU'RE INSANE! HORRIBLE... AND INSANE...

PERHAPS... BUT IT'S GOOD TO BE ABLE TO STAND OFF AND LOOK AT THE MISERABLE LITTLE THING WHICH WAS ONCE PART OF ME! THE PART I'VE **HATED** SO LONG!

GET BACK! MORE KILLING WON'T HELP YOU! **YOU'RE TRAPPED!** YOU...

INSPECTOR! **SOMETHING** IS IN THERE WITH GRANGER! OPEN THE DOOR!

IT TOOK ONLY SECONDS TO OPEN THAT GRIM, FACELESS PANEL OF STEEL! BUT IN THAT SECOND THE SILENCE RETURNED! FIVE MEN STARED... AT DEATH!

IT'S AS IF HE'D BEEN PICKED UP...AND SMASHED DOWN ON THE FLOOR! ALMOST EVERY BONE IN HIS BODY IS BROKEN! **BUT...HE'S ALONE!** THERE **HAD** TO BE SOMEONE ELSE IN HERE! THERE HAD TO!

THERE **WAS**, INSPECTOR!

THE STRAIT-JACKET! RIPPED TO SHREDS! IT WOULD TAKE THE STRENGTH OF A GORILLA TO TEAR THOSE STRAPS FREE!

YES! THERE **WAS** SOMEONE IN HERE WITH GRANGER! **THE BEAST!** THE THING WHICH KILLED GRANGER'S BRAIN...

IT GOT FREE... AND KILLED HIM! BUT THE BEAST WAS **STILL A BEAST** WITHOUT INTELLIGENCE! IT DIDN'T REALIZE THAT IN DESTROYING GRANGER... IT WAS DESTROYING IT-**SELF!** IT DIED... WHEN HE DID!

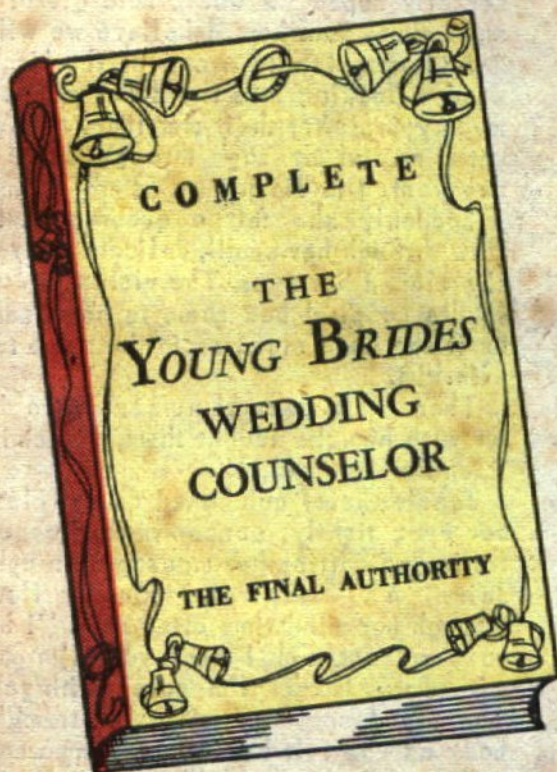
THEN... GRANGER **WAS** TWO MEN! I KNOW IT'S TRUE! BUT EVEN NOW... I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I **CAN'T** BELIEVE IT!

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THE WISH

Mrs. Jaime Howard stood at the kitchen window with tears in her eyes and deep, grieving sorrow in her heart. She stared endlessly through the window to the corner where Jaime, her beloved husband, got off the bus each evening when he came home from work.



But now, Jaime was in the hospital. "A stroke," the doctor had said, "we can only hope--he's in rather bad condition." Jaime had been in the hospital two days now and had not regained consciousness. They had been too close, too dear to each other for her not to know the feeling that drained her heart of life itself.

She tried to reach him through mental telepathy as she had done so many times in the past. Their perfectly coordinated lives and deep devotion for each other had brought them the realization that their minds were in perfect accord and they found that several times a day they thought of the same thing at the same time. They had experimented and had soon developed their minds so that they could send mental messages to each other. Even when Jaime went to his business conventions once a year in Chicago, the mental waves carried almost six hundred miles. That was many years ago and as their love grew stronger and they gained more and more understanding of each other, they found that their mental powers increased and eventually each felt that he was constantly with the other.

One night Jaime had said, as he lay with his head in Jennie's lap, her fingers rubbing away the fatigue from his forehead and temples, "Jennie, I hope when either of us die, the other will die at the same time. I can't imagine living without you!"

Jennie smiled and answered, "I've often thought of that, Jaime, darling. I've secretly hoped we would both die at the same time. Somehow, I believe we will."

And now Jennie stood at the kitchen window looking into the darkness, forty-three years after their marriage, trying to get a mental message through to the man she wanted to die for.

Suddenly she felt a queer sensation flow through her small, delicate body and she closed her eyes. The vision of Jaime on his hospital bed came to her clearly, as if she were standing in the same room with him.

There were several nurses and a doctor with him. He fought them, screaming, "Jennie! My Jennie!"

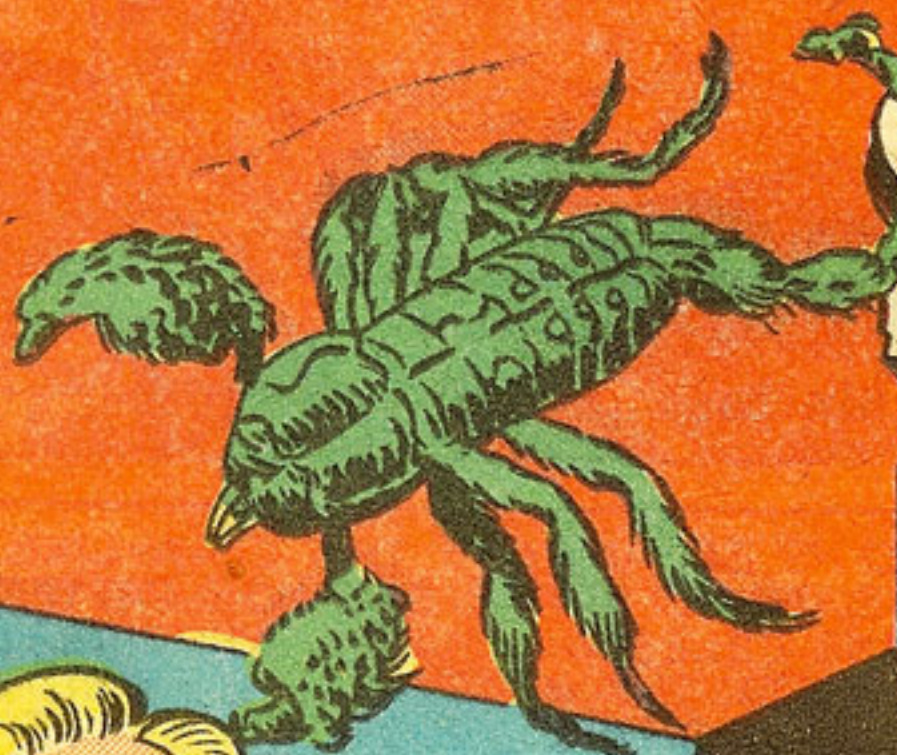
Jennie's heart quickened as she closed her eyes tightly, concentrating; concentrating on getting her message through to Jaime. The desperate thoughts flowed through her mind time after time. "I hear you, my darling! I hear you! I'm going with you, Jaime! I'm going with you!" The blood surged through her trembling body as she felt herself growing weaker and weaker, finally falling to her knees, her knuckles white, grasping the edge of the sink.

This time his voice was clearer and she knew they had made their last contact as she heard him call her name again and again. A sharp, acute pain squeezed at her heart. Still conscious, she saw Jaime suddenly stop fighting. He lay back peacefully in his bed an expression of deep sorrow replacing the one of pain and agony. His eyes closed as the pain in Jennie's heart increased, but suddenly there was no pain and there was no life as Jennie lay dead on the kitchen floor.

In the small hospital not far from the little cottage where Jennie lay, Jaime gave up the fight and lay silently. Great tears trailed slowly down his cheeks as he mumbled, "Darling, darling Jennie, you didn't wait for me!"

In your horoscope there is an ominous warning, cloaked in a riddle you must solve-- or die! Quickly! What do you think of this message--

THE STING OF SCORPIO!



"PERHAPS, I, **TESSIE MARINE**, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL. I REALLY DON'T KNOW.. I'M STILL TOO FRIGHTENED AND CONFUSED TO THINK CLEARLY. IT JUST HAPPENED. BUT WHO CAN SAY WHETHER THE STRANGE FATE THAT BEFELL JOAN BROWN WAS MERE COINCIDENCE OR THE HAND OF DESTINY!"

HELLO, TESS! DID YOU ARRANGE THE APPOINTMENT? I'M SO EXCITED! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED MY FUTURE FORETOLD BY A **REAL** ASTROLOGER.

BIG DEAL! LOOK, JOAN, I ONLY DID THIS FOR YOU! COME ON! WE'RE GOING TO SEE HIM RIGHT NOW. THE GUY IS THE REAL MCCOY! HIS NAME IS ANGOR CHARL, **CLASSY** HUH?



HELLO! MAY WE SEE **MR. CHARL**? MY FRIEND AND I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM!

I AM ANGOR CHARL! WON'T YOU COME IN, LADIES! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

SAY, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEM STAR GAZERS TO ME, HONEY! **WHERE'S YOUR TURBAN AND BEARD?**



AS SOON AS I DON MY ROBE WE MAY BEGIN! WHICH ONE OF YOU LADIES DESIRES HER READING FIRST!

I DO, MR. CHARL! I WAS BORN UNDER THE SIGN OF TAURUS, THE BULL! PERHAPS MY FUTURE IS WRITTEN IN YOUR CHARTS!

LEAVE ME OUT, HONEY! I JUST CAME ALONG FOR THE RIDE! SAY, THAT'S A **CLASSY** KIMONO YOU HAVE THERE, CHARLEY!





I **RESENT** THE FAMILIARITY! MY NAME IS **NOT** CHARLEY! AND STOP REFERRING TO MY SACRED ROBE IN VULGAR TERMS! **KIMONO INDEED!**

PLEASE **DON'T** BE ANGRY. MY FRIEND MEANT NO OFFENSE!

YEAH - **DON'T** BE SO TOUCHY! I WAS ONLY **KIDDING!**



I HONOR **MISS BROWN** FOR NOT TAKING **ASTROLOGY** AS LIGHTLY AS HER UNBELIEVING FRIEND! **SHE** MUST RECALL THAT MY SCIENCE IS OLD... AND WAS KNOWN AS **ZOROASTER** BY THE ANCIENTS! IN ITS DAY, IT DOMINATED THE THINKING OF GREAT CIVILIZATIONS!



PAH! IT IS MY MISFORTUNE TO BE BORN IN AN AGE OF IDIOTS WHO DISCARD THE **TRUE** SCIENCE FOR THE BREWINGS IN TEST TUBES! **OH, BUT WHY GO ON!** TIME IS PRECIOUS!

YES, PLEASE BEGIN! I WANT SO VERY MUCH TO BELIEVE YOUR TEACHINGS..

YEAH! **START ALREADY!**



"AND, SO HE BEGAN! ONE THIN CLAW-LIKE HAND BEGAN TO TRACE STRANGE PATTERNS OVER THE CELESTIAL MAPS... WHILE THE OTHER KEPT CONSTANTLY RECORDING HIS FINDINGS WITH AN ANCIENT STYLUS! THIS SEEMED TO GO ON FOR AGES... UNTIL HE SUDDENLY TURNED TO US AND EXCLAIMED...

MISS BROWN... I'D RATHER NOT GO ON WITH THIS! IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU **FORGET** YOUR CURIOSITY ABOUT YOUR FUTURE...

BUT, **WHY?** I'M EAGER TO KNOW... AND YOU **SAID** YOU COULD PREDICT IT ACCURATELY!



LISTEN... MY FRIEND **PAID** FOR THIS READING! NOW WILL YOU DELIVER ...OR DO I YELL FOR THE COPS?

KEEP YOUR MONEY! I WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT NOW! HOWEVER, BEFORE YOU LEAVE... TAKE WARNING, MISS BROWN! **BEWARE OF THE STING OF SCORPIO!** YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!



"THE LITTLE GEEZER CLAMMED UP AFTER THAT! IT WAS FUTILE TO ARGUE WITH HIM! SO, JOAN AND I TOOK OFF!

WHY WOULDN'T HE TELL MY FUTURE, TESS? SOMETHING'S GOING TO **HAPPEN** TO ME... I J-JUST KNOW IT!

AHH... IT WAS JUST A PITCH, HONEY! IT'S TO **SCARE** THE CHUMPS INTO RETURNING FOR A FLOCK OF READINGS!

HE **WASN'T** FOOLING, TESSIE! I COULD SENSE IT! HE LOOKED AT ME... LIKE A DOCTOR... AT A PATIENT WHO IS... GOING TO DIE...

HOW CAN YOU TAKE SUCH A CRACKPOT SERIOUSLY! HUH! **STING OF SCORPIO!** THINGS ARE **BAD** ENOUGH WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT **BUG BITES!** SCORPIO... THAT'S AN INSECT, ISN'T IT?

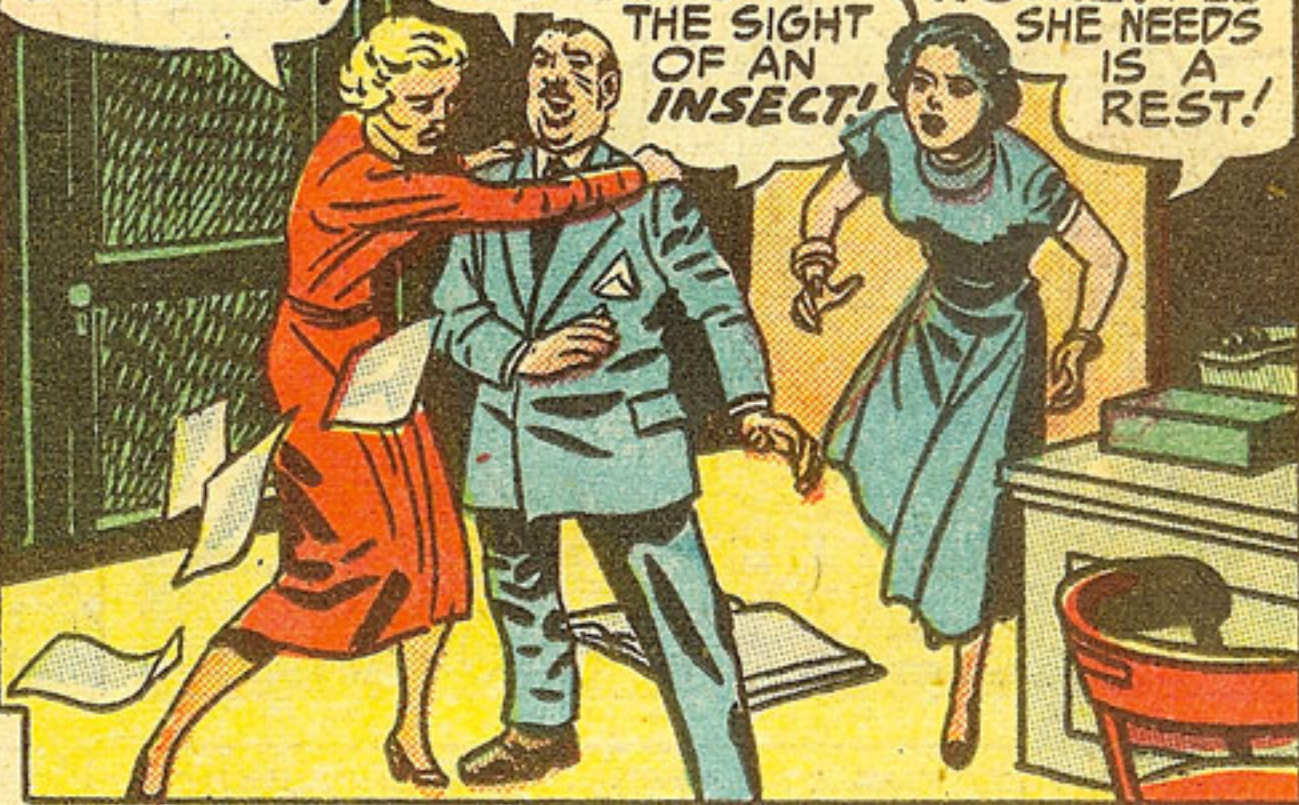


"ME AND MY BIG MOUTH! THE **BUG** ROUTINE DID IT! I TALKED MYSELF BLUE IN THE FACE THAT NIGHT, BUT JOAN WAS HOOKED! IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, EVERYTHING THAT CRAWLED, FLEW OR WRIGGLED BECAME A POTENTIAL ASSASSIN!"

A-A-A... **KILL IT...** BEFORE IT STINGS ME!

STOP IT, MISS BROWN! I **WON'T** TOLERATE THESE HYSTERICS AT THE SIGHT OF AN **INSECT!**

PLEASE, SIR, DON'T BE ANGRY! LET ME TAKE HER **HOME!** ALL SHE NEEDS IS A REST!



"THAT NIGHT I WAS AWAKENED BY A PERSISTENT AND VIOLENT MOTION THAT ALMOST THREW ME TO THE FLOOR! AS I TURNED TO INVESTIGATE, JOAN BROWN SUDDENLY SAT UP AND SCREAMED..."

SAVE ME! **SAVE ME!** THE **SCORPION** IS COMING FOR ME! IT'S GOING TO KILL ME!

JOAN! WAKE UP! Y-YOU'RE HAVING A... A **NIGHTMARE!** THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH! YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A DOCTOR IN THE MORNING!



"I'D MANAGED TO CALM JOAN DOWN BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE! IT WAS A **DISTURBING** CALM... ONE THAT COULD SUDDENLY BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE..."

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO TELL, DOCTOR! IT'S TOO LATE! I'M A **MARKED WOMAN!** I CAN'T ESCAPE THE STING OF SCORPIO!

HMM... YOUR PHOBIA FOR INSECTS SEEMS TO BE BASED ON A **FALSE** PREMISE, MISS BROWN... **SCORPIONS ARE NOT INSECTS!** EQUALLY FALSE IS YOUR BELIEF IN ASTROLOGY...



"JOAN, POOR GIRL, HAD BECOME AN HYSTERICAL NEUROTIC! IT WAS HER AGAINST THE INSECT WORLD AND THE BUGS HAD HER OUTNUMBERED! THIS WASN'T THE END! THE LAST BATTLE WAS FOUGHT IN A TAXI CAB THE FOLLOWING MORNING!"

DARN FLY! I SHOULD HAVE KEPT THE WINDOW CLOSED!

A **FLY!** I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS CAB! **LET ME OUT!**

STOP IT, JOAN! **STOP IT!**



YOUR FEARS ARE BASELESS, YOUNG LADY! THIS ANGOR CHARL IS A **CHARLATAN!** A FAKE WHO OPERATES BEHIND A CURTAIN OF FALSE MYSTICISM... **HIS WEAPONS ARE YOUR OWN SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEFS!** HIS SCIENCE IS MUMMERY! IT'S NO MORE CAPABLE OF DIVINING THE FUTURE THAN I AM OF CONJURING UP A DEMON!



"THE DOCTOR'S FRANK ANALYSIS SEEMED TO DO THE TRICK! LIKE SOMEONE JUST AWAKENED FROM A BAD DREAM, JOAN'S FEATURES RELAXED AND HER VOICE SLOWLY LOST ITS FRIGHTENED, FALTERING TONE ...

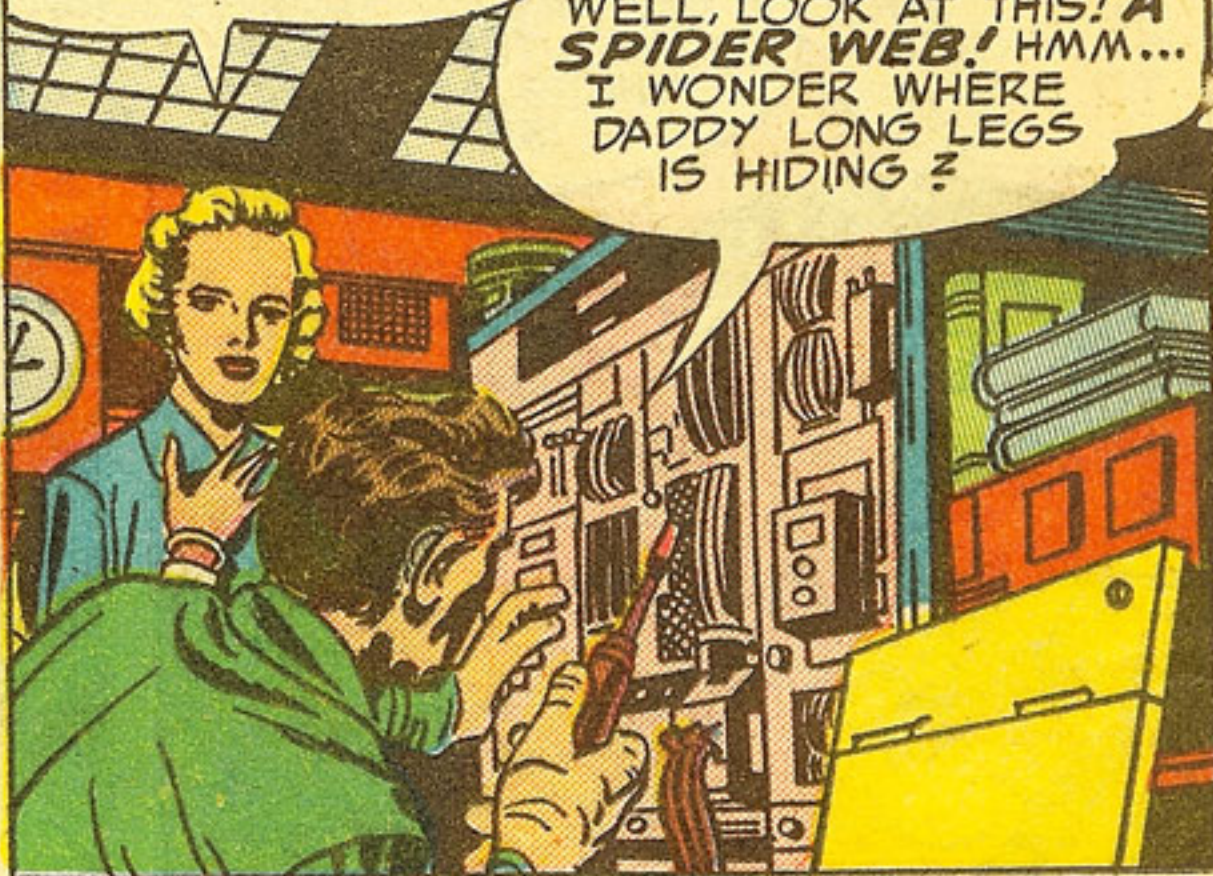
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU **SMILING** AGAIN, JOAN! YOU GAVE ME AN AWFUL SCARE!

TELEPHONE REPAIRMAN, LADY! I WAS SENT TO FIX A SHORT CIRCUIT ON ONE OF YOUR BOARD LINES!



MY, I NEVER KNEW IT WAS SUCH A **COMPLICATED** AFFAIR! DO YOU FIND THIS WORK INTERESTING?

IT IS! CAREFUL, LADY! DON'T GET TOO CURIOUS AND TOUCH ANYTHING... THOSE WIRES ARE CARRYING ENOUGH CURRENT TO FRY YOU! WELL, LOOK AT THIS! A **SPIDER WEB!** HMM... I WONDER WHERE DADDY LONG LEGS IS HIDING?



"THAT DID IT! THE REACTION WAS AUTOMATIC! EMOTIONALLY UPSET PEOPLE LIKE JOAN DON'T EASILY FORGET! THE RESULT WAS TRAGIC!"

A **SPIDER!** WHERE? DON'T LET HIM COME NEAR... **AAAAAA...**

GET AWAY FROM THAT PANEL! THOSE **WIRES!**



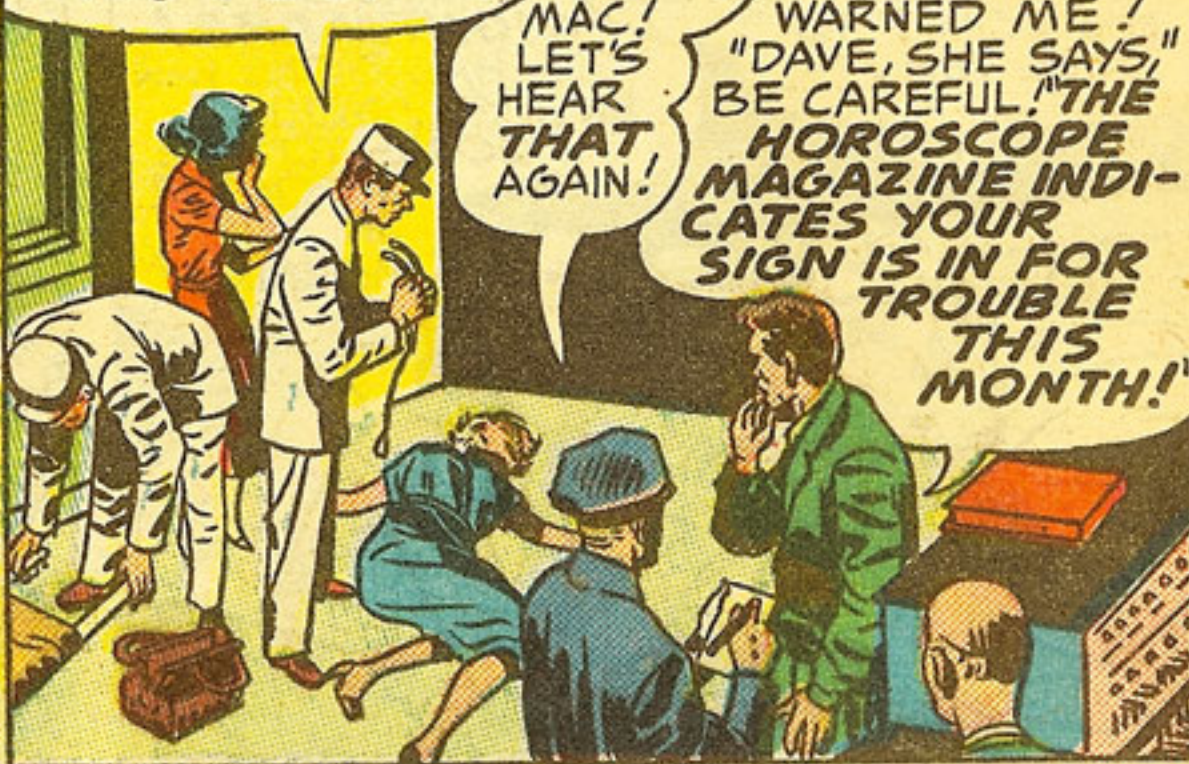
"IT WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE JOAN! THE END WAS **TERRIBLE** AND QUICK! HER LIFE OF DOUBT AND FEAR WAS OVER! THE DOCTOR WHO ARRIVED WITH THE AMBULANCE, LATER, PRONOUNCED HER DEAD!"

DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION! THAT'S THE STORY!

AND YOUR STORY, MAC!

LET'S HEAR THAT AGAIN!

I TOLD YOU! IT WAS AN... AN ACCIDENT! OH, THE MISSUS WARNED ME! "DAVE, SHE SAYS, BE CAREFUL!" **THE HOROSCOPE MAGAZINE INDICATES YOUR SIGN IS IN FOR TROUBLE THIS MONTH!**



OH, NO... NOT YOU, TOO! SAY, WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT SIGN WERE YOU BORN UNDER ...

THE SIGN OF **SCORPIO**... AND YOU CAN HAVE IT! IT HASN'T BROUGHT ME ANY PLEASURE!



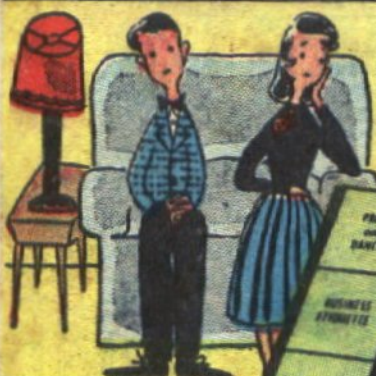
CAN **THIS** BE WHAT THE OLD MAN MEANT BY THE STING OF SCORPIO? POOR JOAN, SHE'LL **NEVER** KNOW... BUT I... I WILL ALWAYS LIVE WITH THE MYSTERY!



"TO THIS DAY, I'M STILL **NOT** SOLD ON THE PREDICTIONS OF THE ANCIENT MYSTICS, BUT, POOR JOAN'S CASE HAS LEFT THAT ONE SEED OF WONDER INSIDE ME... **ARE OUR DESTINIES WRITTEN IN THE STARS?** PERHAPS, LIKE JOAN, THE CURIOUS FIND OUT THE **HARD** WAY!"

The END

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THE STRANGE ANTICS OF THE MYSTIC MIRROR

A TRUE ACCOUNT

LOOK! THE MIRROR LEAPED INTO THE AIR AS SOON AS I REACHED TO PICK IT UP FROM THE TABLE!

IT'S UNCANNY — IT MUST BE HAUNTED!



THE DATE WAS FEBRUARY 20, 1936, AND THE PLACE, A HOSPITAL WARD IN A MIDWESTERN CITY.. **RICHARD MARKSON** WAS ONE OF FIVE PATIENTS -- NO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS... NO DIFFERENT, THAT IS, UNTIL HE REACHED FOR THE SMALL PIECE OF SILVERED GLASS BESIDE HIM...

I'LL GET IT FOR YOU, MR. MARKSON... **DOCTOR** DOESN'T WANT YOU TO STRAIN YOURSELF!



WHY, WHAT IS IT, MR. MARKSON... IS ANYTHING WRONG...



LOOK! CAN'T YOU SEE IT? WHAT IS IN THE MIRROR! NURSE...



NO ONE IN THAT WARD SPOKE — NO ONE LAUGHED, FOR IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE LOOK OF HORROR IN THE MAN'S EYES, THAT HE WAS NOT JESTING... FINALLY, MARKSON LAID THE MIRROR ON THE ENAMELED TABLE BESIDE HIM, AND SPOKE IN A LOW MONOTONE...

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PICK UP THAT MIRROR!



THE WORDS WERE SENSELESS, BUT MARKSON NEVER DID EXPLAIN THEM FURTHER... **IN FIVE MINUTES, HE WAS DEAD!**

WHAT DOES IT MATTER **WHAT** HE SAID BEFORE HE DIED... MOST LIKELY HIS MIND WASN'T FUNCTIONING AT THE TIME... HAVE THE ORDERLIES REMOVE THE BODY, NURSE...

YES, DOCTOR!



STRANGE, WHAT MARKSON SAID... POOR GUY, I WONDER WHAT HE **SAW** IN THAT MIRROR!

WHY DON'T YOU LOOK INTO IT, SMITH... OR DON'T YOU HAVE THE **NERVE?**



WHAT **HARM** CAN THERE BE IN A LITTLE PIECE OF **GLASS?** SURE, I'LL LOOK INTO IT, I'LL...

WELL, **GO AHEAD**, MR. SMITH! WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK!



NOTHING'S HOLDING ME, NURSE... BUT... THE MIRROR! **I CAN'T BUDGE IT!**

WHAT?

IF YOU'RE JOKING, MR. SMITH, I THINK THIS LITTLE GAME HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH... PLEASE **PICK IT UP!**

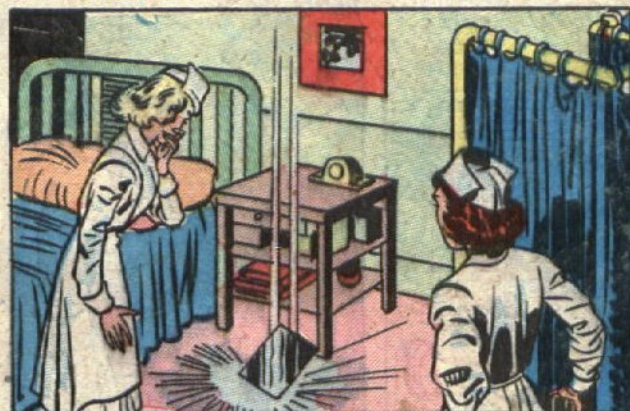
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, TWO NURSES DECIDED TO MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT! ONE ATTACKED THE MIRROR FRANTICALLY WITH AN ICE PICK... IT DIDN'T GIVE...

I GIVE UP... **NOTHING** WILL MOVE IT!

I HAVE A DEADLY WEAPON... MY FINGER-NAILS... LET ME AT IT...



AND HERE'S THE MOST ASTONISHING PART OF THIS ACCOUNT... **SUDDENLY, WITHOUT ASSISTANCE, THE STRANGE GLASS JUST LIFT ITSELF INTO THE AIR AND THEN DROPPED TO THE FLOOR... MUCH TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE ONLOOKERS!**



THERE WAS NOTHING ON THE BACK OF THE MIRROR THAT MIGHT FORM AN ADHESION! WATER WAS SPILLED ON THE TABLE TO FORM A SUCTION! BUT NOW, THE MIRROR WOULD **NOT** STICK! NOTHING THEY TRIED, COULD MAKE IT STICK...

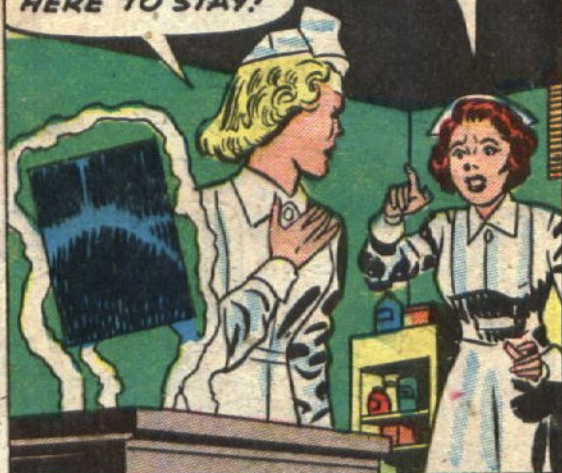
IT LOOKS LIKE **THE SPELL** IS BROKEN... WELL, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE MIRROR NOW?

I KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT! LET ME HAVE IT...



OH, DEAR... I'VE RUINED MY NAILS... I'M AFRAID YOUR **MIRROR** IS **HERE TO STAY!**

LOOK... IT'S **MOVING...**



IT... FELL WITHOUT BREAKING... IT'S... **UNCANNY!**

WELL DON'T **STAND THERE...** LET'S EXAMINE IT...



NURSE... YOU'VE **BROKEN** IT... YOU'VE BROKEN THE MIRROR...

I HAVE... **AND GOOD RIDDANCE!**



THUS ENDED THE STRANGE ANTICS OF **THE MYSTIC MIRROR!** NO EXPLANATION HAS EVER BEEN FOUND, AND THE STAFF OF THE HOSPITAL PREFER TO LET THE MATTER REST! THE PESTY GLASS, BURIED IN A PILE OF RUBBISH, MIGHT WELL HAVE CARRIED A FITTING EPITAPH: **'GOOD RIDDANCE!'**



THE END

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THE VOICE

I sat on a log by the fire thinking about it for a long time. When we started the hunting trip there were four of us. The first one to disappear was Red.

Red was a lanky guy with a lot of deep red hair. He said that the mysterious VOICE in the DARK was meant for him and he told us how he had run over a young girl one night on the highway and had not stopped.

We searched the thickly wooded area the next morning but found no trace of Red, not even a footprint. It was as if he had tied a rope on a sky hook, hooked it to a cloud, climbed up the rope and pulled it up after him.

We made permanent camp to use as a headquarters for our daily hunting trips, before Pee Wee vanished. We were sitting by the fire talking. Pee Wee went into the tent as we heard the VOICE in the NIGHT saying, "You are next! You must die!" It was a high pitched, husky voice and sounded as if it came from a large, hollow tube. We couldn't tell whether it was male or female.

That was the last we saw of Pee Wee. He was a huge man, stood six feet four inches and weighed about three hundred pounds. Earlier that evening he had confessed to us that he had strangled a man because the man had objected to him dancing with his girl. He waited in an alley until the man was alone and Pee Wee was never caught for his dastardly act.

We wasted a whole morning looking for Pee Wee. I chuckled silently because I knew how useless the search was.

The next victim was Two Fingers. He told us that THE VOICE had a special meaning and was meant for him. He had



robbed an old lady's apartment and was caught by her.

He had grabbed the old lady for protection from the police and started down the fire escape. He had slipped on the running ladder at the bottom and his hand caught as he fell, causing the loss of his three fingers. He got away clean and was never apprehended.

I turned in early that night and was just getting comfortable in my sleeping bag when I heard Two Fingers moving outside my tent. Then suddenly everything was quiet. When I awakened the next morning there was no sign of Two Fingers. A cup, half filled with cold coffee, was on a log.

I didn't go looking for Two Fingers, I just sat down on the log beside the cold cup of coffee. I thought about breakfast, but didn't feel like putting out the effort to fix it. Then too I'd have to wash the tin plate and skillet and that was too much trouble. I just sat on the log and did a lot of thinking.

Of course Red, Pee Wee and Two Fingers were completely insane. Their consciences had simply got the better of them.

I know, because I know whose voice it is and I know why.

The VOICE is old Forbes Dickerson. Old Forbes was a prospector up in Alaska. He didn't tell anyone, but he finally made a strike. I knew he would eventually, that's why I followed him around the hills for a year. He was panning nuggets from the swift streams by the dozens, when I murdered him. I didn't take any chances. I put six bullets in his head.

I sacked all the nuggets he had panned, worked a week myself, and took off.

I'm not the fool my three friends were. I know it's Forbes and I'm going to disappoint him. I have the same .45 automatic I used on him. He won't get me--I will!

Hal Hal Here goes!

Tangaroa was the law on Pegoto Island. But Mike Quentin saw no reason to fear him. Why should a man fear a superstition that was nothing more than a

DEMON WIND!



WHEN **MIKE QUENTIN** FIRST CAUGHT SIGHT OF PEGOTO, THE ISLAND SEEMED TO STRETCH HAPPILY BENEATH THE BLUE SKY AND SMILE INTO THE FACE OF THE SUN. IT LOOKED LIKE PARADISE, ALL RIGHT, AND, HE COULD UNDERSTAND **WHY** HIS SISTER HELEN WENT TO LIVE THERE WITH THAT DOCTOR HUSBAND OF HERS...

THERE WAS THE BUSINESS OF DISEMBARKING FROM THE SHIP AND TRANSFER TO A **PRIMITIVE** OUTRIGGER CANOE. WHEN THE SHORE DREW CLOSER, MIKE COULD MAKE OUT HELEN AND DOC MORRISON AMONG THE CROWD OF NATIVES...

WELL! HOW DOES A GUY SAY "**WHAT'S NEW**" IN PEGOTENESE?

MIKE! IT'S **WONDERFUL** TO SEE YOU!



YOU TWO LOOK IN THE PINK—I MEAN, IN THE DEEP TAN! THIS ROBINSON CRUSOE LIFE MUST AGREE WITH YOU--

LIKE THE PEOPLE OF PEGOTO, WE LEAD A **SIMPLE** EXISTENCE HERE.. AND WE LIKE IT! YOU MUST BE FAMISHED, MIKE. WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO CLEAN UP, AND THEN WE'LL HAVE DINNER... FAIR ENOUGH?



THE SOFT LANGUOR OF THE TROPICS MOVED LIKE A SOOTHING HAND THROUGH THE DIM LATTICED ROOM WHERE THEY DINED... THIS WAS A PLACE WHERE A MAN COULD RELAX... AND SAVOR THE BALMY NIGHT AIR WHICH BROUGHT A NATIVE CHANT ACROSS THE OPEN WINDOW... **MIKE QUENTIN** RELAXED!

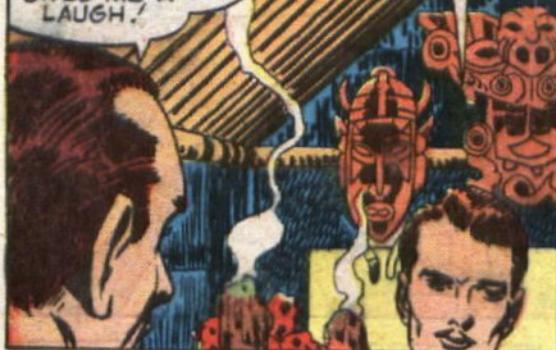
YEP... I SOLD THE BOSS ON DOING A FEATURE STORY, HERE... AND VOILA! YOU HAVE A VISITING BROTHER-IN-LAW!

BUT, WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY FIND ON THIS ISLAND THAT WOULD MAKE NEWS?



AH! THE LOCAL DEMON, EH? GOOD! I'LL GIVE HIM A PLAY! **SUPERSTITION** STILL MANAGES TO SELL NEWSPAPERS... PERSONALLY, IT GIVES ME A LAUGH!

THESE THINGS ARE **NOT FUNNY** HERE IN MICRONESIA, MY BOY!



HEY, HELEN... THIS HUSBAND OF YOURS HAS **GONE NATIVE!** YOU LEFT THAT OUT OF YOUR LETTERS!

DON'T BE FLIPPANT, MIKE! HENRY IS ONLY TRYING TO TELL YOU TO BE **TACTFUL** IN DEALING WITH THE PEOPLE HERE... TO RESPECT THEIR BELIEFS!



I SAID **FEATURE STORY**, DOC... YOU KNOW... AN INTERESTING PIECE DONE FOR THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENTS! "SOUTH SEA SUPERSTITIONS" "THE DEVIL-MEN OF BULA-BULA"... STUFF OF THAT SORT...

I DARE SAY! WELL, **TANGAROA** WOULD BE YOUR BEST PROSPECT, I'D IMAGINE...



THESE PRIMITIVE ISLANDERS STILL LIVE AMONG THE ELEMENTAL FORCES WE CIVILIZED MEN HAVE LEFT BEHIND US... THE **AITU**... THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, STILL WATCH OVER THE PEOPLE OF PEGOTO... **TANGAROA, THE PROTECTOR**, IS VERY REAL... AND THERE ISN'T A MAN ON THIS ISLAND WHO DOESN'T FEAR HIM!



OKAY, I WON'T HORSE AROUND... BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO SHAKE LIKE A LEAF WHENEVER SOMEONE MENTIONS THIS **TANGAROA!**

TANGAROA LIVE! **TANGAROA, GREAT!** HE WALK THE WIND AND BRING JUSTICE! **TARA KNOW!**



OH! OH! I'VE ALREADY
MADE A BAD START
WITH YOUR HOUSE-
KEEPER... CONVEY
MY APOLOGIES,
DOC...

TARA SAW HER
OWN HUSBAND
MURDERED BY
AN INTRUDER!
THIS CRIME WAS
LATER AVENGED
BY **TANGAROA**...



TAKEN BY
TANGAROA,
OF COURSE!
NOW REALLY,
DOC...

YOU MAY LAUGH IF YOU
LIKE... BUT, I'VE SEEN
IT HAPPEN! THE **WIND**
CAME... AND, WHEN IT
PASSED... **THE CASE**
WAS CLOSED!



WELL! TANGAROA
IS QUITE A BOY! I
GUESS THESE
ISLANDERS
HAVE NO
USE FOR
COURTS OF
JUSTICE...

KAHUNA, THE HIGH
PRIEST, AND HIS
COUNCIL PASS JUDGE-
MENT, HERE! IF A MAN
IS GUILTY OF AN ACT
PUNISHABLE BY DEATH,
HE THEN BECOMES
TABU... AND HIS
LIFE IS SHORTLY
FORFEITED!



AS IT WAS IN
THE CASE OF
THIS FELLOW
WHO MURDERED
TARA'S HUSBAND,
I SUPPOSE?

THE MAN WAS SWEEP
INTO THE SEA... AND
DROWNED... DESPITE
THE FACT THAT HE
WAS AN **EXCELLENT**
SWIMMER!



ANY GOOD SWIMMER IS SUBJECT TO A
CRAMP OR CAN SINK IN A ROUGH SEA... MIKE
WANTED TO MENTION THAT, BUT DIDN'T!
WHY GET ULCERS IN PARADISE, HE
THOUGHT! THE ASSIGNMENT WAS LIKE
A PAID VACATION... AND, HIS PURPOSE
WAS TO ENJOY IT!

WELL, IT'S BEEN AN
INTERESTING EVENING...
I THINK I'LL TAKE A
MOONLIGHT WALK
AND THEN TURN IN...

GOOD
NIGHT,
MIKE...



THE NIGHTS WERE LOVELY ON PEGOTO! THE
DAYS, A UNIVERSAL SPLASH OF BRIGHT, WARM
COLOR! THE PEGOTANS, SMILING AND FRIENDLY,
MADE MIKE ONE OF THEM!

HERE ARE THE
WATERS OF THE
BIG FISH! I SHALL
KILL ONE... IN
YOUR HONOR...

SO THAT'S WHY THEY
CALL YOU **SHARK!**
OKAY! GO AHEAD...
BUT, DON'T GET ME
IN THE ACT...



THE LAD NAMED "SHARK" PROVIDED DANGEROUS BUT EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT... WORTH AT LEAST A PARAGRAPH IN MIKE'S FORTHCOMING ARTICLE!



MY KNIFE BIT DEEP! HE WILL DIE QUICKLY! MUST COME UP, MY FRIEND! HIS **BROTHERS** WILL SOON SCENT THE BLOOD AND SWARM HERE IN DROVES!

LOOK... **OUT THERE**, SHARK! SEE IT? A GIANT WATERSPOUT! I SUPPOSE YOU'D SAY **THAT** WAS **TANGAROA** ON THE MARCH, EH?



A CHANCE MEETING OF THE SKY AND THE SEA... WITH THE MIGHT TO SMASH A LUCKLESS SHIP... BUT, IT IS **NOT** TANGAROA, FRIEND, MIKE... **HE** CAN SEE AND HEAR... AND ENFORCE HIS LAWS WHEN THEY ARE BROKEN...



MIKE WISELY SUPPRESSED AN AMUSED SMILE... THESE PEOPLE WERE LIKE IMAGINATIVE CHILDREN, PART OF A BACKWARD CULTURE THAT WOULDN'T GROW UP! WHEN SHARK TOOK HIM BACK TO THE ISLAND, MIKE FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS SISTER!

SHE'S BURNING WITH **FEVER**, TARA... WHERE'S DOC MORRISON?

CHIEF ON TOKU ISLAND MAKE SICK BY EVIL SPIRITS... DOCTOR MORRISON GO THERE!



WHEN DID HE LEAVE? MAYBE, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE OF CATCHING HIM!

TOO LATE! HE IS MANY HOURS AWAY! **ONLY KAHUNA CAN HELP HER NOW!**



KAHUNA? YOU MEAN TO PUT HELEN'S LIFE IN THE HANDS OF A MUMBO-JUMBO WITCH DOCTOR? NOT WHILE I'M HERE, YOU WON'T!

MUST DO, OR MISSY DIE! KAHUNA KNOWS THE SACRED HEALING CEREMONY... **HE CAN SAVE MISSY!**



THEY CAME THAT NIGHT... FOUR MEN WITH A FLOWER-DECKED LITTER FOR HELEN... AND SIX SPEARMEN WHO STARED AT MIKE WITHOUT SMILING... AS HELEN WAS TAKEN AWAY... FIRES FLARED IN THE HILLS AND, SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS, A DRUM BEAT WITH THE SAD RHYTHM OF A FAILING HEART!

SHARK! YOU ARE MY FRIEND! DON'T LET THEM DO THIS!



MIKE WAITED UNTIL THEY WERE GONE! THEN, HE RANSACKED THE HOUSE FOR A GUN. HE FOUND NONE. NOT, THE KIND THAT SHOOTS BULLETS... BUT, THE ONE HE HAD, COULD BE JUST AS IMPRESSIVE TO THOSE WHO'D NEVER SEEN ONE ...

I'LL SHOW THEM MAGIC! WHITE MAN'S MAGIC! IT'LL MAKE A SECOND-RATER OUT OF THAT KAHUNA.



DRINK OF THE LIFE THAT FLOWS IN THE EARTH... DRINK OF THE STRENGTH WHICH IS TANGAROA'S OWN... DRINK AND LIVE ...



WE NOT HARM MISSY! OUR PEOPLE LOVE HER! KAHUNA CAN MAKE HER WELL! WE GO NOW! TRUST US! DO NOT FOLLOW! THE CEREMONY IS NOT FOR YOUR EYES!

YOU CRAZY, SUPERSTITIOUS SAVAGES! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!



ON THE HIGHEST HILL OF PEGOTO, THINGS WERE GOING WELL! BEFORE A GREAT FIRE, THERE WAS CHANTING AND THE BREWING OF HERBS! HERBS CAREFULLY PICKED BY KAHUNA... HERBS FOR THE HEALING POTION... READY TO RESTORE LIFE TO THE LIPS OF THE DYING WOMAN!

IT IS TIME... LIFT HER HEAD, WHILE I CHANT THE SACRED WORDS!



AT THAT MOMENT, MIKE'S FLASH GUN WENT OFF, AND THE CHANT WAS DROWNED BY CRIES OF HORROR!



THE POTION HAD SPILLED! AND, THE WOMAN HAD DIED! TWO DAYS AFTER HER BURIAL, KAHUNA'S COUNCIL PASSED JUDGEMENT ON MIKE QUENTIN!

YOU NOT ONLY VIOLATED A SACRED CEREMONY, BUT CAUSED THE MISSY TO DIE... IT IS OUR WILL THAT YOU BE DECLARED **"TABU"**... AND AWAIT THE WRATH OF **TANGAROA!**



YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT THINGS TO **KAHUNA**, MIKE! HIS METHODS ARE PRIMITIVE... BUT, I'VE **SEEN** THEM WORK! HE WAS HELEN'S ONLY CHANCE... AND YOU STUPIDLY RUINED IT!

DOC! YOU'RE BACK! LISTEN TO ME... I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED...



MIKE HAD TO SHIFT FOR HIMSELF AFTER THAT! TO THE PEGOTANS, HE DID NOT EXIST ANY MORE! HE WALKED AMONG THEM LIKE AN INVISIBLE MAN...



AND, I SAY "NUTS" TO THE LOT OF YOU! YOUR MUMBO-JUMBO KILLED MY SISTER! AND YOU'LL **PAY** FOR IT AS SOON AS I'M ABLE TO NOTIFY THE PROPER AUTHORITIES!



THE DOCTOR TURNED HIS BACK ON MIKE AS DID THE VILLAGERS! MIKE WAS **"TABU"**... ONE TO BE SHUNNED! **AN OUTCAST** WHOSE LIFE NOW BELONGED TO **TANGAROA!**

YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN **THESE** IGNORANT FOOLS, MORRISON! YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN **ME** WITH THIS **"TABU"** BUSINESS... DO YOU HEAR?



FINALLY, HE SOUGHT THE LONELY STRETCHES OF THE ISLAND... SCANNING THE HORIZON FOR THE SHIP THAT WOULD TAKE HIM AWAY FROM THAT ACCURSED PLACE...



ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 26, 1948, A GREAT WIND OF TERRIFYING PROPORTIONS SWEEPED OUT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC CALM AND STRUCK THE ISLAND OF PEGOTO, CAUSING SURPRISINGLY SMALL DAMAGE! AN AMERICAN, MICHAEL QUENTIN, WHO IS STILL REPORTED MISSING... WAS THE ONLY CASUALTY!

END



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Hi! I'm LANA!
the Doll whose HAIR
YOU CAN WAVE!

I have RUBBER WONDERSKIN!

FREE HAIR WAVE KIT

NEW!

A wonderful new doll in washable rubber Wonder-skin whose hair is so life-like it can be waved in any style and reversed just like your own. A perfect playmate for the "Junior Mother" of the house. Complete with real hair-wave kit which consists of... plastic curlers... rubber waving bands... waving end papers... plastic comb... and bottle of hair wave lotion. LANA is 11 inches tall. Her soft cuddly body which can be bathed will give the "Junior Mom" an almost real baby sister to play with.

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*E. T., Prichard, Ala.

*Actual pupils' names on request. Pictures by professional models.

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